


Primary Care COVID-19 Pediatric Testing and Isolation Pathway

Child >1 year becomes ill with COVID-19 Symptoms

 *Symptoms of COVID-19 range from mild - like the flu and other common respiratory infections - to severe. See the up-to-date list of symptoms on [Ontario's COVID-19 Guidance for Health Sector](#) page. This pathway should only be used for children over age 1. Additionally, when parents express concern, the child requires an MD assessment.

Acutely unwell

Yes → Call 911

No →

Does child have fever, cough, shortness of breath or loss of taste/smell?
OR
Does child have two or more COVID-19 symptoms?*

No →

Yes →


Known high risk exposure** to COVID-19 or travel outside Canada?

Yes →

No →

Test Child.
Isolate exposed child who has symptoms.
Other children in the home **cannot** go to school & adults **cannot** go to work and must self-monitor

Hold off on testing
Isolate Child. Parents reassess symptom at 24 hours after symptom onset

 NB: Child with single symptom could be evaluated by a PCP to determine if testing needed. Clear alternative diagnoses don't require a test (e.g. fever as presentation with UTI symptoms)

Child's symptoms improving **and** is afebrile for 24 hours

Yes →

No →

No Test Required. Return to School.
Schools do not require medical documentation

Other Public Health Units

Test Child.
Isolate child until test results are available. Other children in the home **may** go to school & adults **may** go to work and must self-monitor

Peel & Ottawa PHUs

Test Child.
Isolate exposed child who has symptoms. Other children in the home **cannot** go to school & adults **cannot** go to work and must self-monitor

COVID-19 Test : Negative

Child must stay home until symptoms improving **and** is afebrile for 24 hours
Other children in the home **may** go to school & adults **may** go to work
Schools do not require medical documentation or proof of testing

COVID-19 Test : Positive

Reinforce isolation requirements. Follow COVID-19 paediatric treatment guidelines

All household contacts must isolate for 14 days from date of last contact with child who has COVID-19 or as directed by local PHU

Test any household members who develop COVID-19 symptoms during the 14-day isolation and self-monitoring period

COVID-19 Test : Negative

Exposed child must complete 14-day isolation.
Other children in the home **may** go to school & adults **may** go to work
Schools do not require medical documentation or proof of testing

****High Risk Exposure:**
'People who were within 2-meters of an individual for more than 10 minutes, who provide care to them or live in the same household, people they have had close physical contact with, such as shaking hands or who they have accidentally coughed, sneezed or spit on while talking to' or as directed by local public health unit

Developed by:
Julia Orkin, Michelle Science, Lennox Huang (SickKids)
David Kaplan (Ontario Health)
Jordana Sacks, Allan Grill (Family Medicine) Daniel Warshafsky, Mary Choi, Dilnoor Panjwani, Claire MacDonald (CMOH)
Howard Shapiro, Allison Chris (TPH)

This Resource was developed for licensed health care professionals in Canada as a guide only and does not constitute medical or other professional advice. Primary care providers and other health care professionals are required to exercise their own clinical judgment in using this Resource. For statistical and bibliographic purposes, please notify the Centre for Effective Practice (info@cep.health).



Permission to use, copy, and distribute this material for all non-commercial and research purposes is granted, provided the above disclaimer, this paragraph, and appropriate citations appear in all copies, modifications, and distributions. Use of Paediatric screening, testing, isolation and return to school for commercial purposes or any modifications of the Resource are subject to charge and use must be negotiated with the Centre for Effective Practice (Email: info@cep.health)